area spanning 1.12 km².



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New regulatory body for NGOs on cards

ALPHA ARZU

The government plans to form an interministerial committee headed by the finance minister to regulate and monitor the activities of non-governmental organisations, said a source at the social welfare ministry.

There are confusions over the activities of NGOs and their number as several authorities now register NGOs with them for working across the country, said a high-up at the ministry, which will function as the secretariat of the committee.

The body will be comprised of representatives from ministries of finance, commerce, health and family welfare, youth and sports, social welfare, women and children affairs, LGRD and Cooperatives.

It will also include representatives from the Prime Minister's Office as the NGO Affairs Bureau works under the supervision of PMO.

About 2.50 lakh NGOs now operate across the country. Of them, 10,000 are registered with the Office of the Registrar, Joint Stock Companies and Firms, 501 with Micro-Credit Regulatory Authority, 1.52 lakh with Department of Cooperatives, 16,030 with Department of Women and Children Affairs, 55,000 with Department of Social Welfare, one lakh with Department of Youth Development and 2,479 with NGO Affairs Bureau.

Since these NGOs operate under various ordinance and acts, it's very tough for the regulatory bodies to monitor them, said the source.

"Some NGOs get registered with various bodies using the same name. If an NGO is found guilty of any anomalies, it can continue its operation using the licence received from another authority," the source said.

"If an organisation, registered with Department of Social Welfare under the Voluntary Social Welfare Agencies (Registration and Control) Ordinance, 1961 is found guilty of irregularities and anomalies, the department cancels its registration. But the same organisation can continue activities using its registration under the Company Act," added the source.

The government plans to form the inter-ministerial committee to regulate activities of NGOs with efficiency, said Secretary of social welfare ministry Quomaran Nessa Khanam.

"We held a series of meetings with development activists and experts to form a 'social security council'. It will help formulating an 'umbrella law' through integration of all rules to regulate and monitor the activities of non-government organisations," she said.

The ministry is now working to that end, she added.

Dr Iftekharuzzaman, executive director of Transparency International SEE PAGE 15 COL 2



People from all walks of life, mostly children, greet Binod Bihari Chowdhury with flowers during a programme at Central Shaheed Minar. The British-era revolutionary stepped on to his 100th year of life on January 10. Story on page 2.

Saddam wasn't big

Admits Blair in Iraq inquiry

threat after 9/11

Former British prime minister Tony

Blair acknowledged yesterday that

Saddam Hussein didn't become a

bigger threat after September 11, but

AP, London

hinges on money

WEF urged to pay more to fight climate change

CTG CLASH

Reazuddin Bazar still tense

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

As the section 144, clamped following a clash between hawkers and traders on Thursday, continued for the second day yesterday Reazuddin Bazar and its adjoining areas wore a deserted look.

The section 144 had been in force from 6:00pm of Thursday in and around Reazuddin Bazar, Station Road, New Market and Amtala areas. The clash left 22 people, including seven policemen, injured.

Traders' leaders yesterday urged the authorities concerned to free the main entry SEE PAGE 15 COL 1

Irregular workers in Malaysia brace for hard time

More stringent visa renewal process mulled

PORIMOL PALMA

Bangladeshis working in Malaysia on irregular basis and staying there for over a decade will face repatriation or arrest as the country has moved for more stringent visa renewal process and a crackdown on illegal foreigners.

According to sources, some 20,000 to 30,000 Bangladeshi nationals have been working in Malaysia for 13 years while there are many thousand who went there legally but have no valid work permit due to their employers' fraudulent deals.

Online Malaysian newspaper The Star

reports, Home Minister Datuk Seri Hishamuddin said the government would also look into tightening entry checks, enhancing security in the issuance of visas and cooperating with neighbouring countries that were being used as alternative entry points.

He said, "Those whose permits have expired can participate in the voluntary repatriation programme, where they only need to pay a minimal amount for returning home. The deadline for this offer is May 16."

"We view the abuse seriously," he said referring to overstay of illegal immigrants. The SEE PAGE 7 COL 1

AP, AFP, Davos

AL leader murdered in Kishoreganj

A CORRESPONDENT, Kishoreganj

Awami League leader and a former member of Union Parishad was hacked to death by criminals yesterday afternoon in Hossainpur upazila of Kishoreganj district.

The victim, Abu Bakar Siddik Dhanu, 55, succumbed to his injuries at Mymensingh Medical College Hospital while his daughter, Nadira Akter Nupur, 28, injured in the attack, was undergoing treatment at Kishoreganj Adhunik Sadar Hospital. Her condition was stated to be critical.

Meer Abdus Sattar, officerin-charge of Hossainpur, said a group of miscreants hacked **SEE PAGE 15 COL 3**

The success of talks this year to salvage a global

climate accord hinges on money, Mexico's

President Felipe Calderon said yesterday, urging executives at the World Economic

Despite recent scandals that have invigo-

rated global warming sceptics, Calderon and the UN climate chief vigorously defended

scientific work showing that sea levels are rising

and glaciers melting, with consequences for

Calderon will host the UN climate summit in

millions of people and economies worldwide.

Forum to pay more to fight climate change.

said his perception of the risk posed by terrorists acquiring weapons of mass destruction was dramatically changed by the attacks. Blair told Britain's Iraq Inquiry that his contentious decision to back the 2003 US-led invasion of Iraq was inspired by fears of another, even deadlier, terror attack.

"It wasn't that objectively he (Saddam) had done more, it was that our perception of the risk had shifted," Blair said. "If those

people inspired by this religious fanaticism could have killed 30,000, they would have. From that moment Iran, Libya, North Korea, Iraq ... all of this had to be brought to an end. "The primary consideration for me was to send an absolutely

SEE PAGE 15 COL 4

4 get life for throwing acid on housewife

STAFF CORRESPONDENT,

A Habiganj court awarded life imprisonment to four persons on Thursday for throwing acid on a housewife over land

disputes.

The convicts are Sazid Miah, Yakub Miah, Nahid Miah and Farid Miah. Of them, Farid is hiding.

District and Sessions Judge Mahbub Ul Alam passed the judgement.

The prosecution in the case said the accused were locked in a land dispute with Parvin Akhtar, wife of Tota Miah, at Paikura in Chunarughat upazila of Habiganj on

SEE PAGE 15 COL 8



Ruet students clash

with workers, cops

50 hurt; traffic suspended on Dhaka-

Rajshahi highway for 5 hrs

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

terminal at around 12:30pm.

about five hours following the clash.

Over 50 people including teachers and a jour-

nalist were injured yesterday as bus workers

and police clashed with students on Rajshahi

University of Engineering and Technology

Ruet students after a bus hit a carriage brought

out by the students of Electrical Department as

part of rag day celebration near Rajshahi bus

Vehicular movement on the Dhaka-

Rajshahi highway remained suspended for

A clash ensued between bus workers and

(Ruet) campus and at Rajshahi bus terminal.

Ruet students clash with police and bus workers, not in frame, on campus yesterday.

of JU today UNB, JU All preparations have been

completed for holding the fourth convocation of Jahangirnagar University today.

also the chancellor of the university, will formally inaugurate the function at the central playground of the university in the morning.

put on a festive mood for the

Prayer Timing January 30 **Jamaat** Azan 5-30 6-05 12-45 1-15 4-15 4-30 5-43 5-47 7-15 7-45

together.

Cancun at the end of the year, which hopes to improve on the failure last month in Copenhagen to produce a binding accord limiting carbon emissions.

"The economic costs associated with trying . to tackle climate change" are central to the challenges facing governments, he said.

"We need to try to learn from our mistakes in . global warming," bin Laden Copenhagen," Calderon said in Davos. "If we : said in the message attributed can find an economic mechanism ... we will be · to him by the pan-Arab news

Rich and developing countries clashed at ' Copenhagen over how much, and how, each . possibly timed to coincide SEE PAGE 15 COL 7

GLOBAL WARMING

January 31, 2007.

: Laden blames rich nations

AFP, Dubai

al-Qaeda chief Osama bin Laden blamed industrial nations for global warming, and urged a boycott of the US dollar to end "slavery," in an audio tape aired by Al-Jazeera television on Friday.

"All industrial nations, mainly the big ones, are · responsible for the crisis of . channel based in Doha.

In an unusual message **SEE PAGE 15 COL 7**

4th convocation

President Zillur Rahman,

The programme will start with a procession led by the president at 11:30am. Members of JU senate, syndicate, academic council and others will take part in a procession.

The campus has already SEE PAGE 15 COL 6

Fajr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha Source: Islamic Foundation

Coming out tomorrow - Star Campus The Baily Star

Linking Young Minds Together

The Daily Star offers campus based weekly magazine 'Star Campus' - the ultimate magazine for the young generation - a common platform for the college and university students and academicians - to share their ideas, thoughts, dreams, opinions and views. Star Campus is an endeavour to bring into the center stage the visionary aspects of our college and university students, alongside their lifestyle, cultural trends and their multidimensional talents. Star Campus is a magazine broadly based on campus life! It contains articles, academic news, achievements, travelogues, interviews, book reviews, quiz, milestones, academic tips, profiles of educational institutes, cultural and extra-curricular activities in campus, jokes, cartoons, photographs and much more. This is a magazine Of the Students, By the Students and For the Students. Star Campus helps link young minds



www.thedailystar.net

OnlinePoll

Do you agree with Barrister

Moudud Ahmed that a

constitutional vacuum will be

created if the Supreme Court

upholds the High Court verdict

that nullified the Fifth

Amendment?

Total votes: 670

TODAY'S POLL

Do you think the government

will be successful in bringing

back the six remaining

Bangabandhu killers

absconding abroad?

Please cast your vote at

(34.6%)

(2.7%)

O No

O No Comments |

EDITOR: MAHFUZ ANAM-Published by the Editor from Transcraft Ltd., 229 Tejgaon Industrial Area, Dhaka-1208 on behalf of Mediaworld Ltd. 52 Motijheel C.A., Dhaka-1215, Tel: 8124944, 8124955, 8124966, Fax: 8125155, 8126154, GPO Box No: 3257, www.thedailystar.net, reporting@thedailystar.net

SEE PAGE 15 COL 1

At one stage, bus workers took six students

As the news spread on the Ruet campus,

including Sweet, Rokon, Reza and Ratan to the

Bus Workers' Union office and beat them up.

Police rescued the six after half an hour.

over 500 students put barricades on the Dhaka-

Rajshahi highway at about 2:00pm. Police

swooped on them when the students carrying

sticks marched towards bus counters at Kajla

Ruet Electrical Department, near the gate as he

tried to calm the students. He was admitted to

Rajshahi Medical College Hospital with a

Police also beat up Selim Hossain, teacher of

near the Ruet main gate.